



BRIEF NEWS

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European Grids Package: CEDEC webinar on the new proposals

At the end of last year, the European Commission presented the European Grids Package to modernise and expand Europe's electricity networks. The initiative aims to accelerate permitting, boost grid investments, and strengthen EU-level coordination of network planning. By tackling long-standing bottlenecks in grid development, it seeks to make energy more affordable and secure for households and industry.

The Package consists of both legislative and non-legislative elements. It includes a major revision of the TEN-E Regulation to strengthen and coordinate EU-level planning for electricity, hydrogen and gas networks. It also proposes changes to the permit-granting articles in several directives to streamline permitting for grid projects, renewables, storage and charging infrastructure. These legislative measures are complemented by non-binding guidances on electricity grid connections and on contracts for difference for renewable and nuclear power.

On this occasion, the CEDEC Working Group Smart Grids is pleased to invite you to the webinar on the European Grids Package, featuring an analysis of the Package, its key impacts at distribution level, and the next steps ahead.



When? 27 January 2026, 12:30-14:00



Where? MS TEAMS

Digital Networks Act: state of play

The Digital Networks Act has entered its final stage, with the reform of the European telecommunications framework set to be presented in Strasbourg on 20 January, days after a draft version of the Act was already leaked online. After an initial negative opinion, the draft regulation successfully passed its second review by the European Commission's Regulatory Scrutiny Board in December, following revisions by the European Commission. On 5 January, the proposal moved into the interservice consultation phase, allowing other Commission departments to provide feedback ahead of its submission to the Commissioners and their cabinets.

Spotlight on: Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU – priorities and work programme

From 1 January 2026, the Republic of Cyprus has assumed the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, a role it will hold until 30 June 2026. Its priorities include strengthening the EU's autonomy through security and defence, boosting competitiveness, remaining open to the world, upholding shared values, and advancing a long-term EU budget.

In energy, the Presidency will focus on building a resilient and integrated Energy Union by improving grid infrastructure, promoting digitalisation and cybersecurity, and supporting affordable energy for citizens. In telecommunications, it will prioritise secure and resilient connectivity, enhance digital sovereignty and competitiveness, simplify digital and data frameworks, encourage innovation in areas such as AI and cloud computing, and strengthen cooperation on cybersecurity to protect critical infrastructure across the EU.

According to the draft work programme of the Cyprus Presidency, discussions at the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy (TTE) Councils in March and June 2026 will focus on advancing the European Grids Package, including the TEN-E Regulation. These discussions will be complemented by broader debates on energy security of supply and the digitalisation of the energy system. In parallel, the Cyprus Presidency plans to advance work on citizen-focused energy initiatives. On the digital side, the June 2026 TTE Council will address the proposed Digital Networks Act, a cornerstone initiative for shaping EU-wide digital connectivity and broadband deployment, alongside related files on cloud, AI, and cybersecurity.



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European Commission: 2026 agenda

Further to the Digital Networks Act, the European Commission is set to present the Industrial Accelerator Act on 29 January. The Citizens Energy Package, that is expected to take the form of a communication and recommendations to Member States, is due on 10 March, after an initial postponement. The roadmap for digitalisation and AI in the energy sector is to be expected on 25 March. While not yet included in the draft agenda, an Energy Security Package is anticipated in late April, a ban on Russian oil as early as February, and a subsequent ban on Russian nuclear energy. The Heating and Cooling Strategy has reportedly been postponed to May and is likely to be presented together with the Electrification Action Plan.

European Parliament: ITRE meetings calendar 2026

In its 2026 calendar, the European Parliament is scheduled to hold 14 plenary sessions, of which 12 are four-day sessions in Strasbourg and two are two-day sessions in Brussels. The Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) has moreover published its meetings calendar for the 10th legislature in 2026. Regular committee meetings are scheduled throughout the year, with exact dates that can be consulted here. Live web-streams of meetings can be found here.

ACER Work Programme 2026–28

The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators' (ACER) work programme for the coming years outlines its priorities for integrating EU energy markets, ensuring infrastructure adequacy, and maintaining security of supply. The Agency's tasks have expanded under the Clean Energy Package and the European Commission's Grids Action Plan, with a focus on incentives and assessing DSO network planning. Tasks also include issuing reports on network tariffs, including analyses on incentives for more efficient utilisation of existing grids, including investigating the potential of DSOs to use their flexibility assets to overcome congestion. On electricity networks, ACER will monitor the cost impacts of investing in electricity transmission and distribution networks, and practices on remuneration and incentives for system operators. The agency will keep enforcing REMIT to prevent market manipulation, with a new department to strengthen cross-border investigations and market transparency. ACER will also support amendments to existing network codes for electricity and gas, along with following up their implementation.

The Annual Work Program 2026 mentions ACER's upcoming Opinion concerning the integration of gas and hydrogen members into EU DSO Entity following a change in their statutory documents and governance structure; ACER's Electricity and Gas Working Groups will be formally consulted on this. A key task in 2026 will be the development of an EU-wide assessment tool of flexibility needs, with first results expected to be completed in 2027. Finally, ACER will support the improvements to the legal framework on European grids, within the context of the European Grids Package.

CEER Work Programme 2026

Aligned with Council of European Energy Regulators' (CEER) 2026–2029 strategy, this year's work programme addresses Europe's evolving energy landscape, including decarbonisation, affordability, digitalisation, and geopolitical challenges. The programme comprises 12 work items covering electricity, gas, and cross-sectoral issues. Key deliverables include the joint ACER-CEER Market Monitoring Report 2026 for wholesale and retail markets, a CEER report on consumer protection issues, and tools for assessing renewable and low-carbon gas markets across Member States. Recurring activities also include monitoring national implementation of decarbonisation policies and fostering regulatory cooperation.

Upcoming meetings and events

- CEDEC Working Group Smart Grids: Webinar on Grids Package - 27 January, 12:30-14:00. [Join the meeting here](#).
- CEDEC Working Group Gas – 17 February, 14:00-16:00. [Join the meeting here](#).

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